

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 03617 252024Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7438

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3617

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, MX

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREANS SEE GOM OFFICIALS

1. KOREAN CHARGE (AMBASSADOR IN SEOUL ON CONSULTATION) ON APRIL 24 EXPRESSED CONCERN TO AMBASSADOR OVER VISIT APRIL 8-12 BY NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS TO MEXICO, HEADED BY VICE FONMIN YI-CHONG MOK. NORTH KOREANS WERE RECEIVED BY FOREIGN SECRETARIAT THIRD ECHELON OFFICIAL (DIRECTOR IN CHIEF) RAUL VALDES, AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY UNDERSECRETARY JOSE GALLASTEGUI. THOUGH MEXICAN OFFICIALS INDICATED NO GOM CHANGE OF POLICY RE NORTH KOREA IS CONTEMPLATED, SOUTH KOREAN MISSION HERE IS CONCERNED OVER WHAT THEY CONSIDER BREAK IN PRECEDENT ON THIS ISSUE.

2. FROM OTHER SOURCES WE UNDERSTAND THAT KOREANS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT MOYA PALENCIA.

3. COMMENT: EXCLUSION OF NORTH KOREANS SEEM TO BE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF SOUTH KOREAN MISSION HERE. ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS IN THE PAST, FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA HAS ASSURED KOREAN MISSION THAT MEXICO WILL NEVER ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA WHILE
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 03617 252024Z

HE IS FOREIGN SECRETARY. GOM ANTIPATHY TOWARD NORTH

KOREA DATES FROM TRAINING OF MEXICAN SUBVERSIVES
BY THAT COUNTRY IN 1971. KOREAN EMBOFF HAS TOLD
EMBASSY OF AT LEAST ONE OCCASION WHEN RABASA,
IMPORTUNED BY NORTH KOREANS DURING MEETING IN BUENOS
AIRES, SIMPLY REFUSED TO TALK WITH THEM. KOREANS HERE
MAY BE AWARE OF AT LEAST SOME SLIPPAGE IN GOM POSITION
ON PRG (I.E. PRG PRESENCE AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS) AND
FEAR THAT OTHER CHANGES IN ASIAN POLICY, E.G. ON
NORTH KOREA, MAY BE IN THE WIND. RECEPTION OF RECENT
VISITORS NATURALLY INCREASES THEIR APPREHENSION. HOWEVER,
IT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT THAT, UNLIKE MEXICO PRACTICE
WITH OTHER EXOTIC VISITORS, NORTH KOREAN STAY HERE WAS
KEPT COMPLETELY (?) OUT OF THE PRESS.
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